



A Clean Environment is Important To All of Us!

In the City of Carlsbad, storm drains flow directly into local creeks, lagoons and the ocean without treatment. Storm water pollution can cause human and environmental health problems.

Storm water pollution comes from a variety of sources including dirt, leaves, trash, and debris, pesticide and fertilizer runoff from landscaping, and from materials such as concrete, mortar and soil from construction activities.

The City of Carlsbad is committed to improving water quality and reducing the amount of pollutants that enter our precious waterways.



Storm Water Protection Program



Erosion Control

When unvegetated areas like slopes and graded lots are not properly or adequately protected, rain water can carry oil, fertilizers, pesticides, and sediments into the storm drain system. Impervious surfaces such as roads, roofs, driveways and parking lots will not absorb water and the runoff that flows over these areas goes directly into our waterways. Streams, creeks, and rivers help remove sediments and other pollutants from surface waters, however these natural systems have their limits. Sediments and other pollutants can overload a waterway and prevent natural biological, chemical, and physical processes from occurring.



Best Management Practices (BMPs) are procedures that help to prevent pollutants from entering our storm drains. Each of us can do our part to keep storm water clean. Using BMPs adds up to a pollution solution!

DIRT!

It is **illegal** to pile dirt or other materials on streets, driveways, and sidewalks where it could run off into the storm drain. If you must temporarily remove soil and dirt, make sure it is contained by a berm and covered with a tarp. If you are permanently removing dirt, you should locate your nearest disposal area or contact a commercial business to handle your disposal needs.



The Bare Necessities

Slopes, lots, and other areas where erosion can occur should not be left bare for long periods of time. Sand bags, hay bales, silt fences, and detention basins can help to control erosion, but are not long term solutions to an erosion control problem. Where bare areas are not immediately revegetated, mulch or straw matting can also provide temporary protection.

Keep it Green

Leaving as much vegetation as possible is the best way to minimize erosion. Plants are a natural, inexpensive and highly effective means of controlling runoff. Runoff slows down and loses much of its force when it reaches a strip of vegetation. Vegetation also works as a filter, straining out sediment, debris and other pollutants.



What you can DO!!

- Use native plants in your landscape, whenever possible.
- Sweep up, instead of hosing down.
- Try composting!
- Protect slopes from runoff.
- Volunteer to help clean up and revegetate.
- Report illegal discharges.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly.
- Regularly check irrigation timers and sprinkler systems.
- Cut back, not clear cut!!

For information about properly disposing of and/or recycling dirt, concrete, paint, drywall, and other materials call 1-800-CLEAN-UP or visit www.1800CLEANUP.org

For more information or to report an illegal discharge, please call 760-602-2799